

## TOPIC: Emerging Problems in Global Food Safety

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### BIOGRAPHY

**Dr. Zhihua Ye** received his B.S. degree in plant protection from Huazhong Agricultural College in 1981, his M.S. degree in entomology from University of the Philippines at Los Banos in 1988 and his PhD degree in agricultural entomology from the Graduate School, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), in 1994. Dr. Ye is currently the Director General and Professor of the Institute of Quality Standards and Testing Technology for Agro-products, CAAS. He holds positions in several professional societies and organizations, such as the Standing Committee of the Academic Committee of CAAS, China Society of Plant Protection, Entomological Society of China, National Expert Committee of Risk Assessment on Quality and Safety for Agro-products. He has also served as members in editorial board of several professional journals and magazines, such as *Food Additives & Contaminants* (UK) and *Agricultural Quality & Standards*. He has served as a member of steering committees for domestic and international research programs including several MOST projects (China), the Generation Challenge Program (CGIAR) and Irrigated Rice Research Consortium (IRRI). He has been the PI of several national and international research projects relevant to food quality and safety, including the EU integrated project *Tracing Food Commodities in Europe* and the USDA project *The Role of Third Party Certification for Food Safety in China*. He is the author of 3 books and more than 60 articles.

## ABSTRACT

### Emerging Problems in Global Food Safety

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Food safety is a very important issue, not only in a country, in a region, but in the whole world. Emerging problems of global food safety, from BSE to melamine incident, has resulted in various incidents in the domestic markets and in the international trade as well.

Since the first mad cow was found in 1984 in Britain, some 190,000 BSE cases have been reported in more than 30 countries. The incident of dioxin-contaminated poultry feed firstly occurred in Belgium in 1999 and, again, in North Ireland last year. Sudan red contaminated foods were detected in UK, China and several other countries, including products of some well-known brands such as KFC in 2005. In 2007, US recalled melamine contaminated pet feed in which the raw material was imported from a Chinese company. In 2008, high content of melamine was found in infant formula in China, which affected some 296,000 Chinese infants and young children with six infants died. The biggest Chinese dairy company *Sanlu* collapsed because of this incident. Huge economic loss and social impact were observed. The consequences were also felt globally as melamine-contaminated milk and relevant food products were exported to other countries. This presentation will give an overview of these emerging incidents of global food safety.

Joint efforts of national governments and international organizations have been taken to meet the challenges of global food safety crisis. International bodies such as WHO, FAO and OIE as well as CAC have worked efficiently to ensure food safety in the world. Efforts in legislation, administration and capacity-building for food safety at the national level were further enhanced than ever before. As an example, policies and actions taken by the Chinese government for resuming consumers' trust and confidence after the melamine incident are introduced and discussed in this presentation.

Food safety is increasingly and will continuously be a global challenge. It is suggested in this presentation that collective efforts be urgently needed for all countries to take food safety actions to a new level more than ever. Efficient collaborations of all relevant partners at the international and national levels are crucial for resolving the emerging problems and reducing the incidents of food safety in the future.

Keywords: Food, Safety, Crisis, Incident